

B104

WORONI

No. 7/1954

19th July, 1954

Coming Events -

END OF TERM DANCE

FRIDAY 6th August, 1954, at 8.30 p.m. in the College Hall.
Admission 5/- Liquor available. Supper provided.

MUSIC CLUB

The music club will be meeting in the Students' Common Room at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, 23rd June. The programme will include recordings of Madame Butterfly and a Handel Concerto.

All students and friends welcome.

LITERARY COMPETITION

The S.R.C. with the co-operation of the English Department, has decided to sponsor an annual literary competition to be held among College students. Entries for the competition will be accepted from examination or non-examination students of the College, and may take the form of poetry, drama, essays, short stories or a novel. Professor Hope has very kindly offered to contribute £5.5.0 annually towards the prize for this competition.

An award of £7.7.0 will be made for the best entry received in each year and the two next best entries will each receive an award of £2.2.0.

Entries will close on 1st February each year and the prizes will be presented at the annual commencement ceremony. All entries will be published in the College newspaper and winning entries in the annual magazine. No restrictions will be imposed as to length of entries or subject matter.

THIRD TERM

Another dance will be held at the beginning of third term

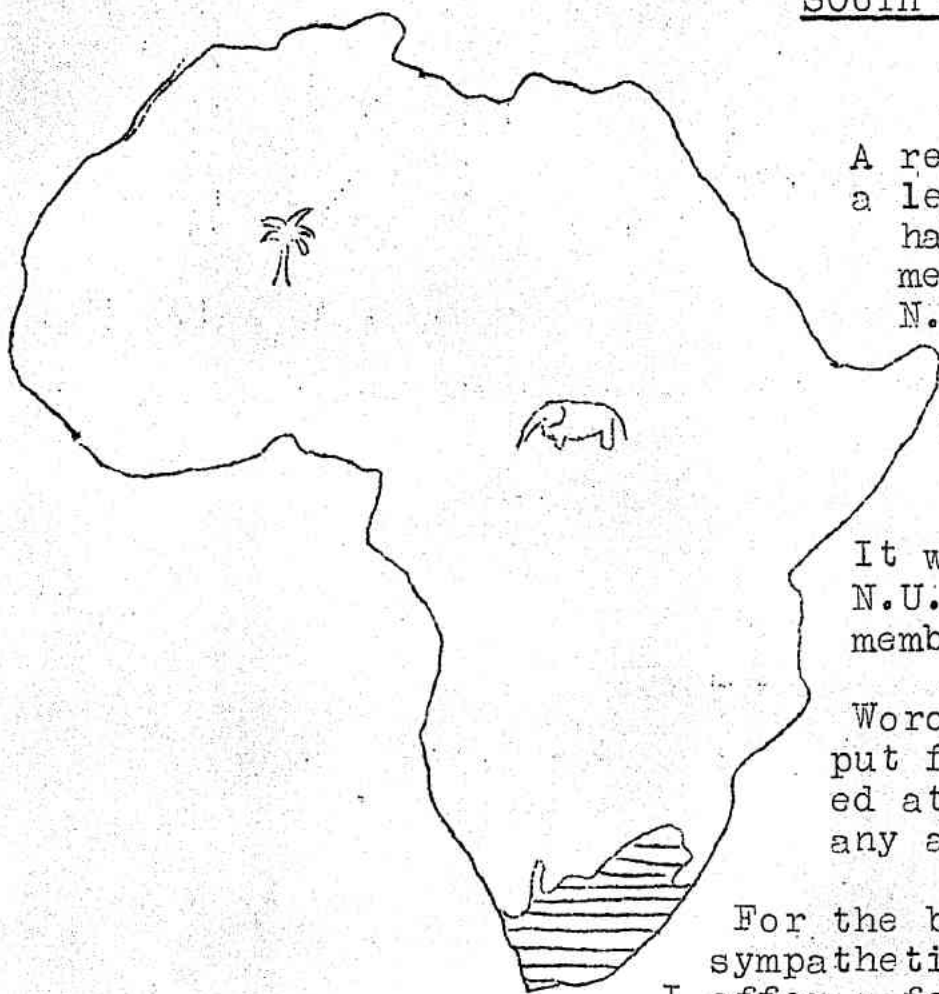
WATCH FOR NOTICES

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MEMBER

THE END OF TERM DANCE!

COLLEGE HALL AUGUST 6TH

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

A recent issue of Woroni contained a lengthy account of a matter which had been considered by an S.R.C. meeting - the request from N.U.A.U.S. to support a criticism of South African Government policy in separating European and non-European University students.

It was agreed to give support to N.U.A.U.S. by six votes to one (two members being absent).

Woroni quoted in full the arguments put forward by NUAUS which were accepted at the meeting, but did not mention any arguments against the motion.

For the benefit of students who may feel sympathetic towards the attitude of NUAUS I offer a few practical reasons for dissenting with that opinion:

1. The historical development of South Africa has once and for all determined that there shall be separate development of her white and coloured peoples. This traditional policy is the outlook of all people, irrespective of politics. It is NOT, as seems to be believed, a new idea introduced by the present Premier - of this I can give first hand assurance, having been in the country before and after the election which brought the present Government to power.
2. The issue involved is a biological one - for the greater part both white and coloured people have the same instinctive reaction to miscegenation, and experience has shown that this must result from indiscriminate mixing. Half-castes the world over are shunned, and it is significant that in all countries they have been labelled with some opprobrious name.
3. South Africa is a racial cul de sac and for the white man to maintain himself in the midst of 10,000,000 Natives, Indians, and "off whites" - the offspring of miscegenation of many centuries ago - there can be no compromise. The only alternative to apartheid is a "coffee coloured race".
4. In criticising the policy of separating University students, NUAUS is not concerning itself with the problems of students, but directly with the policy of the government of another country. It is surely obvious that the government of a country has greater knowledge of the way to tackle its problems than has any group of students 7,000 miles away.
5. University segregation is being approached as follows:
 - (a) The government has appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate what can be done to bring about apartheid in the two universities of Johannesburg and Cape Town - the ONLY TWO out of nine South African universities which have mixed attendances.
 - (b) No compulsory steps are to be instituted until separate and as nearly as possible equal educational facilities can be provided.

6. NUAUS decided to bring up this whole matter at the request of NUSAS - the supposedly equivalent South African student body. In this connection it is significant that NUSAS membership is drawn from only FOUR South African Universities, and therefore cannot be regarded as representative of South African University Students. The Universities of Pretoria, Stellenbosch, O.F.S. and Potchefstroom, broke away from NUSAS (which has unsuccessfully approached them to re-join) because they disapproved of the "leftist" tendencies of that body.
7. Experience has shown that the non-white progresses much more rapidly when left to free competition amongst his own people than when competing with non-coloureds. A fully established non-European Medical School - a completely autonomous Faculty of the Natal University, with access to the largest non-European hospital in the African Continent for training purposes - has given excellent results, while there is a very high percentage of failures of non-white students in the medical school of Johannesburg (Witwatersrand) University. Like the Australian aboriginal, the African native has little idea of time, and finds it difficult to keep abreast of the white student.

Fort Hare University College - a purely non-European institution - has provided more graduates than either Cape Town or Johannesburg (Witwatersrand) Universities, with mixed attendance.

In concluding, might I say that the complexity of the colour problem of South Africa has been recognized by many Australians. At the conclusion of his visit to South Africa last year, Mr. Menzies said that the solution of South Africa's racial problems was one for South Africans, and not for outsiders who knew nothing of conditions. I should also like to quote from a daily newspaper - not a "prejudiced" South African but an Australian paper ϕ - which states very clearly the problem of assimilation. This was quickly brought forward in answer to a criticism of Australia's white immigration policy - may we also bear it in mind when we ourselves are criticising the policy of our sister-dominion:

"At least two countries - the U.S.A. and South Africa - are beset with intractable problems of the kind we want to avoid. Our immigration policy was framed early in this century, in full awareness of the limits of assimilation, and the dangers of trying to intermingle human stocks of varying races, religions, colours, customs, traditions and inherited social practices.....

"Our attitude is not..... prompted by antagonism to Asians.... It has its roots in our moes of life, and those of our forebears, in social ways, in human genetics, in economic factors, and the predominantly British or European inheritance.....

"We cannot claim to be above criticism, but critics do better service to the cause of mutual understanding in the degree that they show themselves to be well informed of the basic reasons for our aims and aspirations".

ϕ Melbourne "Age", 23.6.54.

V. TOWNSHEND.

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EDITORIAL

It was stated in last week's editorial that it is easier for members of the Australian National University to use the College Library than it is for students of the College to use the University Library. It has now been brought to our attention that College students may borrow from the University Library, providing that they obtain from their lecturers and produce to the Librarian a written indication that it would be desirable for them to do so. Members of the University, on the other hand, may borrow books from the College Library on payment of a deposit of £1. The mis-statement is very much regretted.

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WE'VE HAD IT! - A RAG!

It's been done! It's been done at last! Yes, so help me, the College has burst out. SOMEONE, lurking in the corridor last week, waited till all was quiet and then took the thing! Took it, hid it, carried it, dumped it. And there it was, in all its pristine glory, shining in the evening sun, sitting on the front lawn for all the public to see.

Surrounded by a roped off cordon, screened by ornamental shrubs and decorated with fluttering streamers of white, perforated paper, it bore the huge legend: "THIS MAGNIFICENT PUBLIC MONUMENT WILL BE OPENED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW COUNCIL TODAY". Clochémerle!

It wasn't, of course, and after waiting for half an hour for members of the new Council to turn up and to their bit, the newspaper photographers who had got word of it (subtle bit, that) stomped off in a rage.

Nevertheless it had its moments. Shortly before 6.00 p.m. several members of the Council made a conducted tour of the "works", although I must regretfully record that most of them were too interested in other matters to even spare one minute to see what the new charges placed in their care were up to. They went home to tea. The monument and its silent guardian and curator, George, waited in the cold for the six o'clock exodus.

It came. Expressions of glee mingled with cries of "oo - la la". It was indeed a "la", although this was not immediately recognised by all comers. Some of the female members of the audience were frankly puzzled - bless their souls. Gradually, of course, the light dawned. "What is it" said one, "One of those newfangled things for men?" and then sank, redfaced, as she discovered her nearest companion was a gent she had never met before. The best effort, though, was attributed to the pretty little lass who looked up enquiringly and exclaimed: "Goodness, I wonder if they always have those in bachelor flats?"

Naturally enough, many missed it. Plodding home, public-servant like, they stolidly refused to be drawn by the crowd, just as they failed to notice "George" hanging from a rafter overhead and just as they fail to see even the largest notice about the place. God bless 'em.

The doover is back now. Last time I saw it, it was back in the corridor of Block " " waiting for the plumbers to instal it in its rightful place. To the unknown hero who put in the work of moving it so we could have five-minutes laugh in the midst of our cares, I say thank-you. Let us hope that the first sign of spontaneous human activity within the college will not be its last.

"GUTBUCKET BILL"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

May I point out my views, and the views of a number of other people in this University, in response to the rather startling article on apartheid in South African Universities. I should like to take each of the seven points listed in that letter and add my comments after each. Here goes:

1. The historical development etc..... Since when has an historical development determined anything once and for all? No appeal to conservative tradition or historical background can ever take the place of sanity, logic and Christian equality; or else the whole of the world's ethical principles become no more than a bundle of meaningless gibberish, and mankind is tied to the inevitable round of consequences arising from the misguided activities of our forefathers. This idea, as your correspondent claims, may not be new - but it IS bunk!

2. The issue involved is not a biological one. As the last paragraph indicates, it is a matter of the way in which one set of human, immortal souls is going to treat another set of immortal souls. It is more than a matter of keeping one set of animals apart from another set of animals, simply because the colour of their hides does not mix and so-called "miscegenation" (vile word) produces an uncommon brindle-coated being; it is a matter of vastly more importance than that. Man is not just an animal - he is a free being, a mind, a soul - and a soul is not something you shun just because you don't care to sit beside the body it is wrapped in.

3. South Africa is a racial cul de sac, I grant you, my friend, but where in the name of goodness lies the justification for imagining that a small white minority are granted holy mandate to rule over ten million others, deciding which carriages they shall ride in, which streets they shall live in, whom they shall marry, what they shall read, drink, smoke and eat? Is a white skin superior to a coffee coloured one? Why?? (I suggest this one might be tried in Philosophy classes next week and the answer, if any, printed in "Woroni").

4. This battered world, by its tacit agreement to the League of Nations and the United Nations Organisation, has twice declared itself to be in favour of a system of world government. This being so, it becomes the concern and duty of any country to criticise the government of any geographical group which is contravening the very, basic rights of human equality and the principles of human dignity for which they have, in hypocrisy, declared. Matters which affect man, as man, are not matters within the sole jurisdiction of a single national group. Basic principles can never be subjected to national politics without disastrous results to the future integrity of the group behind the project or the total abandonment of the principles themselves. Greater knowledge of the detailed situation may lie with the group concerned, it is true, but to lose sight of the underlying principles guiding right activity is to rob that detail of all meaning in the eyes of the beholder.

5. This point, I believe, is offered in refutation of certain implications made in the article appearing in "Woroni". Yet, I feel, certain points of interest emerge from it.

(a) ONLY two of nine South African Universities have had mixed attendances. The whites, even in their wildest dreams, have never allowed a great encroachment of their private preserves. Now this one progressive step, this one ray of light, is to be withdrawn.

(b) This I frankly disbelieve. It is now, however, a matter which can be proven at this stage but a matter of belief, which must await the passage of time for its proof or disqualification.

6. It is meant to be implied, of course, that four Universities is not many. Four out of nine rather changes the picture, though, and this should not be forgotten. The point, nevertheless, is irrelevant. Regardless of the numerical backing for it, the point at issue is one of principle, not one of majority rule, and the fact that NUAUS, NUSAS, Communists, republicans or British liberals originated it is not really worthy of consideration. The thing is wrong and that is all there is to it.

7. This last, cleverly, is the most telling point. I would reply by saying that physiologists have not yet agreed that mental capacity is racially determined. If the native is slower to learn the complexities of a modern technological world, this is not because his brain is "smaller" or feebler, but because he is starting his contact with modern life, and the university in particular, at a gross disadvantage due to his earlier environment. The point, of course, is that unless the backward race is given as full and free a chance of association as can be arranged, then we are retarding its progress and preventing any chance it has of speeding up its tardy efforts in the field of self-education. Only by a full association with the white man can the native race overcome the disadvantage incurred from its earlier environment and begin to assimilate knowledge on an equal footing.

There are my comments. I make no point of issue with the correspondent's final paragraph, because as all your readers will appreciate, the integrity of our Prime Minister and the Melbourne "Age" have never been questioned. Like all oracles they are above reproach.

J. EDWARDS.

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Sir,

On one afternoon recently, I was surprised, no, shocked, as I came out of a purifying two hours of Fresh, to see the College lawn covered, literally covered, with bric-a-brac of various kinds. I am told that in the centre of this mess there was hidden a receptacle of great length and considerable height with which I, as a member of my sex, am naturally unacquainted. I am told also that it was put there by a member, a prominent member, of the University Staff, and with the help, the condivance of another.

I cannot express strongly enough my view of people who do things like that. Apart from the trouble it gives of carting the stuff back again (did those who did it, lost in their academic detachment, even think of that), my feminine instincts rebel at this childish, this puerile behaviour, which is that of undergraduates and not of grown men in responsible positions which ought to give them more to do than to leave the time for this sort of prankery. I should like my psychology class to get loose on them. We'd soon give them a few things to think about. And think what a fascinating study people of that class would make.

Yours etc.
DISGUSTED

nee One-bridge Tells

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

END OF TERM DANCE

REMEMBER

REMEMBER